

Claims 3-5 depend from the amended claim 2 and therefore are believed to be in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency from the amended claim 1.

Claims 6, 7, and 8 have been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 2-7 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hickman in view of Laurens.

Claim 9, depends from the amended claim 2 and therefore is believed to be in condition for allowance by virtue of its dependency from the amended claim 2.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claim 9 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 7 of the Office Action

Paragraph 7 of the Office Action states that claims 8 and 10 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


New claim 11 includes all of the limitations originally set forth in claims ²1, 9, and 10. Because claim 10 is deemed to include patentable subject matter, new claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance. New claims 12-17 depend from new claim

11 and therefore are believed to be in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency from new claim 11.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.


Respectfully submitted,

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